



PATENT
450100-02409

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Nobuyuki KIHARA et al.

Serial No. : 09/535,003

For : EDITING APPARATUS AND EDITING METHOD

Filed : March 24, 2000

Examiner : Arezoo Shertkat

Art Unit : 2131

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Technology Center 2100

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

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William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

June 7, 2004

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2004. In light of the accompanying Certified English Translations and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 13-16, 18, 19 and 24 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,278,678 (Iida) in combination with U.S. Patent 6,404,676

(Kihara). In addition, claims 4, 10-12, 17 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over this combination of references, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,085,323 (Shimizu).

The present application is entitled to the Japanese priority filing dates of March 25, 1999, June 29, 1999 and December 8, 1999. All of these priority dates antedate the February 9, 2000 U.S. filing date to which the Iida patent is entitled. These priority dates also antedate the March 2, 2000 U.S. filing date to which the Kihara patent is entitled. Enclosed herewith are verified English translations of Japanese priority applications 11-081535, 11-183412 and 11-349108, from which it will be seen that the rejected claims are fully supported by these Japanese priority applications. In view of the earlier effective filing date of the present application, the Iida and Kihara references are not available as prior art with respect hereto. It is, therefore, requested that these references be removed and that the rejections of claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21-24 as being obvious in view of Iida in combination with Kihara be withdrawn. See MPEP 201.15.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance; and an early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800

Encs. - Three Certified English Translations of Japanese Priority Applications